

2009/2010 COMMUNITY REPORT

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE INITIATIVE

Staffed by our team, this initiative supports and promotes active participation of immigrant and refugee populations to give them a voice, access, and connection to City government.

Highlights:

- The Immigrant and Refugee Board reviewed federal, state, and local legislation that affects immigrants and refugees, and made recommendations on five positions.
- Staff monitored and compiled a mid-year report on progress of City departments on the Immigrant and Refugee Action Plan and completed a draft of the 2010-2012 Action Plan.



SOUTH PARK ACTION AGENDA

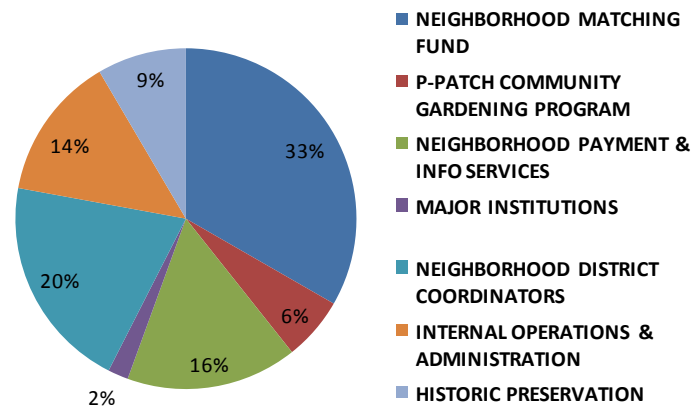
This community-driven partnership with the City targets 162 recommendations across five areas to improve the South Park community.

Highlights:

- South Park Information and Resource Center (SPIARC) moved to a new site (8520 14th Ave S) which improved their operations and resulted in an increased number of clients and additions of two languages to support community members.
- Neighborhood Matching Fund supported several projects to include Market on Wheels, River City Skate Park, and bridge closure activities.
- Staff coordinated and promoted multiple City activities focused on strengthening the community as a result of the South Park Bridge closure.
- Construction on the River City Skate Park began this summer.



2010 PROGRAM BUDGET



City of Seattle
Mike McGinn, Mayor

SEATTLE YOUTH COMMISSION

The Seattle Youth Commission serves as the voice for youth and provides opportunities to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on issues of concern to youth.

Highlights:

- The Commission is comprised of 25 young people, ages 14 to 19, representing all 13 Neighborhood Districts and 16 different high schools.
- In March, the Seattle Youth Council was **designated an official City commission**.
- More than **300 youth** gathered at Seattle Center for the **Youth Town Hall** to discuss their needs and issues with Mayor McGinn and City Council.



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

JULY 2009—JUNE 2010



From the Director - Stella Chao

This Community Report presents selected highlights of our many accomplishments over the past year on behalf of Seattle's residents. We have many challenges before us; the partnerships we're building with and within our neighborhoods represent the strengths needed to realize our shared vision for the future.

There's a buzz word these days—sometimes overused: *sustainability*. To me and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, it means what we have always strived for; that feeling of community stewardship and responsibility that keeps us as one of the best places to live, whether we are in times of plenty or in times of need. We all pitch in because we care about our neighbors and we care about our Seattle.

Seattle: the "City of Neighborhoods." We are a collection of distinct neighborhoods, each with its own character, diversity of people, and ideas. A colorful tapestry of cultures and interests. The neighborhoods themselves are an inspiration to us as we partner and strengthen our communities, bring city services and resources ever closer to our residents, and engage citizens in meaningful and practical conversations about our lives and our futures.

Neighborhoods are where Seattle's *real* conversations are taking place. Advocating for the protection of our historic structures and districts. Providing immigrants and refugees with the tools they need to embrace their new home. It is where people gather to brainstorm and start community improvements, grow food and share their harvests, and find new partnerships for the future.

NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND

Recognized internationally, the Neighborhood Matching Fund provides dollars for projects initiated, planned and implemented by community members in partnership with the City. **The community match required for every award is at the heart of the program.** For a list of projects, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/nmfprojects.htm#search>.

Fund	# Awards	Amount Awarded	Value of Match
Large Projects	17	\$1,243,524	\$1,247,626
Small & Simple	90	\$1,207,434	\$1,750,660
Small Sparks	72	\$ 48,708	\$ 103,678
Outreach	8	\$ 5,849	\$ 6,760
Tree Fund	32	\$ 49,259	---
TOTALS:	303	\$2,554,474	\$3,108,724



Highlights:

- More than **12,400 people volunteered nearly 82,000 hours** for the larger projects for a total value match of over \$1.2 million.
- The Small Sparks Fund increased its maximum award from \$250 to \$1000 and added outreach projects to available funding. There was an **increase of more than 300%** (20 to 72) in the number of awards given. The **community match was more than double the amount awarded** - \$103,000 for \$48,000 awarded.
- For the first time, Tree Fund recipients were given a fruit tree for their yards. In fact, 169 of the 737 trees awarded were fruit trees.

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS

This is the "greenest" program of the City and represents the finest grassroots efforts by volunteers who create and maintain community gardens. **We have the largest municipally-operated gardening program in the nation west of New York City.**

Highlights:

- **Opened four new P-Patches**—Shiga's Garden, Hazel Heights, MacArthur Lane, and West Genesee—bringing the citywide total to 73 gardens serving more than 2,000 families on 23 acres.
- **Nine garden projects (new or expansions) are underway** thanks to the passage of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy or other funding, along with extraordinary community support.
- **Gardeners donated more than 25,000 lbs. of fresh organic produce** to food banks and hot meal programs in partnership with the P-Patch Trust and Solid Ground's Lettuce Link Program.
- **Gardeners contributed nearly 20,000 hours of volunteer labor** to make their P-Patches inviting neighborhood spaces.
- The Youth Gardening Program now has 40 plots and led 50+ classes, four workshops and numerous community-service projects.



Web: www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods

Blog: <http://frontporch.seattle.gov/>

Twitter: [@SeaNeighborhood](https://twitter.com/SeaNeighborhood)

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/seattleneighborhoods

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Seattle residents are directly involved in **setting high standards** for both rehabilitation and new construction, ensuring community treasures are preserved and our neighborhoods remain strong.



Highlights:

- Seattle's Historic District boards and commissions and the Landmarks Preservation Board acted on **354 Certificates of Approval**, and the Landmarks Preservation Board **considered 19 landmarks nominations**. Seattle City Council **designated 16 landmarks**, including the Sorrento Hotel, Fire Station 13, the Horiuchi Mural, Volunteer Park Conservatory, and Seattle Center House.
- The Historic Preservation Program was **honored at Historic Seattle's 2nd Annual Preservation Awards**, where the Downtown Historic Resource Survey and Inventory was **recognized for Excellence in Preservation Planning**.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONS & SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Seattle has 13 designated institutions and schools—hospitals, colleges and universities—considered vital to the community. This department convenes Citizen Advisory Committees that review and comment on each institution's required master plan for future development. **Our staff ensures neighborhood input is included in all the plans.**

Highlights:

- **Neighbors participated in master planning** for Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, and University of Washington.
- **New or revised plans have begun** for redevelopment of Seattle Central Community College, and Virginia Mason and Swedish-Cherry Hill Hospitals.
- Staff inaugurated the Major Institutions and Schools website which includes master plans, advisory committee information and meeting minutes, along with recommendations and decisions.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

Our team is committed to **meaningful, inclusive community involvement** in the development of plans for the future of our neighborhoods.

Highlights:

- The Neighborhood Planning team received the **Governor's 2010 Smart Communities Award for Outstanding Public Outreach and Engagement**.
- The department implemented the innovative **Planning Outreach Liaison (POL)** process in 2009 to enhance outreach and community engagement for 13 historically underserved groups.
- The 2009 Neighborhood Plan Updates occurred in the **Othello, North Rainier and North Beacon Hill** neighborhoods. In 2010, the **Rainier Beach and the Broadview-Bitter Lake-Haller Lake** neighborhoods were selected, and planning is underway.



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NEIGHBORHOOD PAYMENT & INFORMATION SERVICES (NPIS)

Located in neighborhoods citywide, our Customer Service Representatives provide **one-stop access to City services, information and resources** at 7 of the 13 Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs).

Highlights:

- Received the **2009 Seattle Management Association Excellence in Management Award—Customer Satisfaction**.
- **Processed 195,407 transactions** for total of \$36,152,914.
- Served as official King County ballot drop-off locations; facilitated and coordinated ballot processing during election season. More than **24% of all non-mailed ballots were dropped at NPIS sites**.
- Processed **8,300 U.S. passport applications**.
- **Assisted customers in qualifying for reduced-rate utility services** and free legal consultations.
- Distributed **63,122 free CFL light bulbs to 22,000 residents** (estimated savings of \$187,000 per year).
- Coordinated Municipal Court Magistrate hearings at several locations; **monthly average was 241 hearings**.
- Processed **9,009 returned cable TV equipment units and 5,455 payments** valued at \$586,276.
- Assisted **6,152 individuals in verifying their identification** and setting up new utility accounts.
- Distributed **1,700 free Green Kitchen Kits** for home composting.



NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT COORDINATORS (NDCs) & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTERS (NSCs)

Seattle's 13 Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs) provide multiple resources and services. In each neighborhood, the Neighborhood District Coordinator (NDC) acts as **the neighborhood's primary liaison to the City**, ensuring direct support for community groups and residents. They are **dedicated to ensuring all community members engage in civic affairs**.

NDCs' Highlights:

- On average, NDCs facilitated, attended, or participated in more than **3900 meetings with community members** annually.
- As part of the **Neighborhood Projects Fund**, the team vetted 200+ applications and managed the selection process through the Neighborhood District Councils. The process resulted in awards to 34 projects totaling \$1,191,000 for streets and park improvements.
- More than **50 Small Sparks Neighborhood Matching Fund awards** for community projects were initiated by NDCs working with community groups and individuals; and they served as a resource and catalyst for most other Neighborhood Matching Fund applications.
- NDCs organized **12 neighborhood walking tours with community members** for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and **coordinated 10 community Clean and Green** work parties.



NEW!!

- To broaden our reach, the **Front Porch blog** was launched (<http://frontporch.seattle.gov/>) with an average of 20 posts a month.
- A **Twitter** account was established ([@SeaNeighborhood](https://twitter.com/SeaNeighborhood)) to share news and information.
- Photos are now posted on **Flickr** (www.flickr.com/photos/seattleneighborhoods/) to enable the sharing of photos with the many community projects and programs connected to the department.
- An **online calendar is included on our homepage** that provides information on our department's and neighborhood events, meetings, and deadlines of interest to community members (www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/calendar/default.htm).